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Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
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Letter dated 1 December 1999 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

As you know, the Economic and Social Council has endeavoured for a number of years to better integrate and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to implement the goals of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s. I am writing to seek your collaboration in ensuring that the Council's guidance and policy recommendations in that area are taken into account in the work of the preparatory committee of the Fourth World Conference on Women. In particular, I should like to draw your attention to resolution 1999/55, an important resolution adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of major United Nations conferences and summits.

As requested by the Council in that resolution, I should firstly like to transmit to you, as inputs for the five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council's outcomes on (a) the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women, (b) operational activities, in particular poverty eradication and capacity-building, and (c) implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives for African development. Indeed, over the years, the Council has examined several major themes common to all conferences, and its outcomes constitute an important contribution to the five-year conference reviews.

* E/CN.6/2000/PC/1.

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The Council, in resolution 1999/55, also urged its functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enhance coordination and complementarity among the five-year reviews. To that effect, it encouraged the bureaux of the preparatory committees for the forthcoming five-year reviews of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the World Summit for Social Development to consult with one another to avoid duplication and ensure cross-fertilization of ideas. I understand that the two bureaux have already taken steps to meet with one another. I would like to encourage you to carry forward that endeavour and would be very grateful if you would keep me informed on the outcome of such a meeting.

I should be happy to assist and advise you on ways to implement the Council's guidance and further improve coordination, should there be any need. The Council furthermore recommended that the end-of-decade assessment of progress towards the goals of the World Conference on Education for all be taken into account in the five-year reviews of other conferences (para. 4 of resolution 1999/55). In this regard, I have noted with satisfaction that the Preparatory Committee requested a report from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on progress in achieving the goals of education for all.

Finally, the Council decided to assess, at the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2000, the progress made within the United Nations system, through the conference reviews, in the promotion of an integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, as a possible contribution to the Millennium Assembly (paras. 22-24 of resolution 1999/55). I will contact you in due time to seek your collaboration in preparing this segment, but would be grateful for any views or suggestions you might have, at this stage, on the Council's review.

(*Signed*) F. Paolo **Fulci**